

Of interest are the 14 pages devoted to neurasthenia and neurosis in relation to pelvic disorders.

This book is intended as a companion volume to "Midwifery by Ten Teachers" and as a consequence there are numerous cross-references to the latter book. This makes it somewhat mandatory to have both volumes at one's disposal when making a serious study of the context. However, the present book may be recommended for the purpose intended, that is, the use of medical students and young practitioners.

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**THE BRITISH CONTRIBUTION TO MEDICINE.** Dr. Jaime Jaramillo-Arango, Former Rector of the National Faculty of Medicine of Bogota, former Colombian Ambassador in London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1953. Distributed by Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1954. 220 pages.

Dr. Jaime Jaramillo-Arango has long been a student of medical history, and in addition to being author of this excellent book on Britain's contribution to medicine, he has written a scholarly treatise on the history of quinine in which he establishes that the role of the Countess of Chinchon must be relegated to the limbo of mythology. He has had a distinguished career as professor of surgery and later as rector of the National Faculty of Medicine of Bogota, Colombia. This book has been written from notes collected while he was Colombian Ambassador in London.

Printed on excellent paper, this book of 220 pages is most interestingly written, is well documented and is illustrated with 44 photographs of British medical scientists from William Harvey, Percivall Pott and John Hunter to Charles H. Best, Sir Frederick Banting, Sir Robert Robinson and Alexander Haddow. The opening chapter gives a brief general history which loses no charm or value because of brevity. Discoveries and ideas are linked to personalities in a striking manner, often with brief history-making quotations from their writings. The other six chapters tell dramatically of the conquest of typhoid, malaria and nutritional diseases, the discovery and development of penicillin and other antibiotics with a "Chronology of the Pillars of this New Science," and of the struggle against cancer to which the British have made such notable contributions. This book should be in the library of everyone having an interest in medical history.

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**HYPERTENSIVE DISORDERS OF PREGNANCY.** Ernest W. Page, M.D., Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of California School of Medicine. Charles C. Thomas, publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1953. 120 pages, \$3.75.

This monograph is one of the American Lecture Series which has been brought forth by Charles C. Thomas Company. Dr. Page has produced an excellent summary of the prevailing knowledge in the field of pregnancy toxemias and related disorders. The work is divided into three parts: Clinical Aspects; Physiological and Biochemical Changes in Normal Pregnancy and in Toxemia; and Etiology of Toxemia.

The book contains an excellent bibliography numbering 132 references. It can be recommended primarily to the obstetric specialist and will be of value to those who include substantial numbers of obstetrical patients in their work. However, much of the data is highly technical and of research nature; certain of the material given in relation to therapy is more of a compendium and one seeking specific recommendations on treatment will refer to supplementary works. This book is highly recommended to investigators with special interest in hypertensive disorders.

**MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE—3rd Edition—**I. Gordon, M.B., Ch.B. (Cape Town); R. Turner, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Cape Town); and T. W. Price, Ph.D., M.A., LL.B. (Cantab.), B.A., LL.B. (South Africa), all from the University of Cape Town, E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., London, distributed through Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1953. 944 pages, \$13.50.

Over one-half the volume is devoted to the South African law and its relation to the practicing physician in that area. For the purposes of one interested in a comparative study of the South African and American laws and regulations, the book would serve well.

The remainder of the volume deals with forensic medicine and pathology, written in a concise and well-organized manner. The more recent advances and late literature are included in the discussions. Perhaps, more so than elsewhere, the relations of physiologic and biochemical changes to postmortem findings are given. Detailed chapters on necropsy technique, anesthetic deaths, deaths from acute neurogenic cardiovascular collapse, and also on postmortem tissue changes due to the various types of anoxia, etc., are included. A large section, "regional injuries of medico-legal importance," is well organized, adequately illustrated, and up-to-date.

Despite the fact that much of the volume is not pertinent to the laws under which the American physician practices, that portion of the book dealing with forensic medicine and pathology is such as to justify the consideration of the use of the book for reading and as a ready reference source.

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**SPATIAL VECTORCARDIOGRAPHY—**George E. Burch, M.D., F.A.C.P., Henderson Professor of Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine; J. A. Abildskov, M.D., Instructor in Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine; and James A. Cronvich, M.S., Professor of Electrical Engineering, Tulane University, Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1953. 173 pages, 121 illustrations, \$5.00.

This small volume satisfactorily presents in simplified and abbreviated fashion the salient features of spatial vectorcardiography, a branch of cardiology which presently is attracting the investigative attention of a few electrocardiographers. From a review of their own findings and those of other workers in the field, the authors conclude that the subject is still in the experimental stage and that practical clinical applications have not yet been demonstrated.

Material in the book has been modified from that presented among the scientific exhibits at a meeting of the American Medical Association. This approach to writing favors simplification but seems to have resulted in something of an outline style, an annoying use of italics and occasional repetition (Figures 29 and 78 are identical, as are Figures 30 and 73); a few of the electrocardiograms from patients whose vectorcardiograms are shown are reproduced in such small area as to be nearly illegible to the naked eye. For all this, the volume is a satisfactory introduction to a subject which may yet become useful to physicians.

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**WATER, ELECTROLYTE AND ACID-BASE BALANCE—**Normal and Pathologic Physiology as a Basis for Therapy. Harry F. Weisberg, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and of Clinical Medicine, The Chicago Medical School. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1953. 245 pages, \$5.00.

Students and physicians alike will find this book helpful as an aid to orientation in this rapidly developing field. Although dealing in fundamentals which the busy physician may find difficult to assimilate, these fundamentals are essential to an understanding of problems involving electrolyte disturbances. The physician who will take the time